

A 24412 (3) Romney Marsh

ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

KENT




ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

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ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT, KENT.

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of  
Health and Sanitary Inspector for the  
Year, 1951.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report  
for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident  
Home Population as at 30th June, 1951, was 4,455, slightly  
larger (by 31) than in 1950.

The number of births decreased from 79 in 1950 to 63  
and the birth-rate was accordingly reduced to 14.14. The  
number of births is small, although relative to the size of  
the population and the fluctuations which occur make the  
rate more misleading than as if the population were very  
large. However, the rate, at its face-value, is lower  
than that for England and Wales (15.5) but the decline  
cannot be attributed to any single factor or group of  
factors of significance.

As in 1950, there were three infant deaths, which were  
due to (1) Atalectasis and prematurity (2) Atalectasis and  
Broncho-pneumonia and (3) Congenital Atresia of bile-ducts.  
These deaths were therefore of congenital origin and  
apparently unavoidable. There were however no still-births  
and no deaths amongst mothers due to pregnancy, child-birth  
or abortion.

The actual number of deaths at all ages was 53 and as will  
be noted from the table, these were mostly due to diseases of  
the Heart and Vascular System and most of them were amongst  
the aged. Cancer caused seven deaths, also mainly amongst  
the aged. This dreaded disease can be successfully treated  
if an early diagnosis is established but in the majority  
of cases the converse is usual, and it causes the deaths of  
many people whose expectation of life would otherwise have  
been much longer. There was no exceptional cause of deaths.

There were no deaths from Infectious Disease.

Small outbreaks of Measles and Whooping Cough occurred  
but these are regarded as being unavoidable. These diseases  
are endemic in the Country and are most infectious before  
they are usually recognised by the parents. Children are,  
therefore, allowed to attend School in a highly infectious  
state and from the schools infection is disseminated to the  
homes and younger members of the family.

As Measles is not in the majority of cases a serious  
disease, little use is made of Convalescent Serum or Gamma  
Globulin to prevent or attenuate an attack; both can be  
obtained from the County Laboratory. Their use is  
chiefly indicated for susceptible children who are in poor  
health or ill from some other disease. Gamma Globulin is  
preferable as it is about twice as potent as the serum, and  
if given within the first five days of exposure will usually  
prevent an attack and if given a few days later will attenuate



the disease. The dose is 0.1 - 0.2 c.c per pound of body weight.

Prevention of Whooping Cough by vaccine is still uncertain. The most practical method of prevention is the isolation of suspected cases as early as possible, for 5 to 6 weeks.

Broncho-pneumonia is the most common and dangerous complication in both Measles and Whooping Cough and the opportunity for treatment should not be delayed.

There were two unrelated cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, the first of which occurred in June and the second in December. The first case was a woman of 32 years of age who arrived at a Holiday Camp within the incubation period of the disease and therefore did not become infected while at the Camp. She was transferred to the Infectious Diseases Hospital and made a satisfactory recovery. Fortunately there were no secondary cases, as afore-mentioned.

The second case was a youth of 20 years of age who though resident at a Farm, travelled widely by car, but there was no history of contact with another case. The paralysis, particularly of his legs was rather severe, with residual crippling defects.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, seven of which were mild and were treated at home. The other which occurred in a Holiday Camp was removed to Hospital. Two of these cases were in the same family, but the other cases were unrelated. This disease which was very virulent in the last Century and thereby became very notorious and feared, is now relatively mild and prevention is not difficult and treatment with Antitoxin, and/or Sulphonamides or Antibiotics is specific.

There was also one case of Meningococcal Infection (Cerebro-spinal or "Spotted" Fever) and the patient made a successful recovery. This disease which greatly increased in incidence in this area during the war, owing to the influx of soldiers, is now rare and sporadic and treatment with Sulphonamides and/or Antibiotics is usually successful if the disease is not too far advanced.

There were no other cases of serious Infectious Disease, such as Typhoid or Paratyphoid, Dysentery, Diphtheria or Food Poisoning.

Theoretically, having regard to the possibility of an epidemic of the Enteric Fevers or of the Dysenteries or of Acute Poliomyelitis, the difficulties of drainage and sewage disposal in certain well-known black-spots in the District create a potentially a dangerous situation. For example in periods of heavy rain-fall, the sub-soil water level which is normally high, saturates the soil and the dykes, and sewage from cesspools and septic tanks overflows above the ground. A scheme prepared by the Council to provide adequate drainage and sewage disposal in these areas has received the approval of the Ministry in principle, following an Enquiry, but unfortunately cannot be proceeded with owing to the current need for financial restriction.

(3)

At the end of the year there were 17 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register, 14 of which were respiratory and 3 non-respiratory. During the year there were 3 new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis, and 2 new cases of non-Respiratory Tuberculosis. There were no deaths. (See appended table). The incidence of new cases is declining and as time goes on, more beds are becoming available for patients and treatment is becoming more advanced. There should therefore be fewer 'open' ambulant cases abroad to disseminate infection amongst the susceptible.

In summary, the Public Health of the District may be regarded as being generally satisfactory, with the proviso however that there is always much scope for improvement.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and co-operation in the work of the Department and my staff for their efficient and loyal service.

I am

Your obedient Servant,

J. Marshall.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health and  
Principal Medical Officer K.C.C.



SECTION A.STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR 1951.

Area:- 31,031.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-  
The Resident Population ... .. 4,455Number of Inhabited Houses According  
to the Rate Books. ... .. 1,713

Rateable Value:- ... .. £25,259

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate ... .. £100

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Social Conditions.

Romney Marsh Rural District is almost entirely engaged in Agriculture which is the only industry and common interest in the community. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, and here where there are holiday camps, camping sites and sea-side dwellings, the inhabitants cater for the requirements of the many holiday-makers. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

|   | <u>Total</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |             | <u>Romney Marsh<br/>Rural Dist.</u> | <u>England<br/>and Wales.</u> |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Live Births  | 63           | 53        | 24        | Birth Rate  | 14.14                               | 15.5                          |
| (a) Legitimate  | 62           | 38        | 24        | per 1,000   |                                     |                               |
| (b) Illegitimate  | 1            | -         | -         | estimated   |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | resident    |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | population  |                                     |                               |
| 2. Stillbirths  | --           | --        | --        | Rate per    | --                                  | --                            |
| (a) Legitimate  | --           | --        | --        | 1,000 total |                                     |                               |
| (b) Illegitimate  | --           | --        | --        | (live and   |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | still)      |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | births.     |                                     |                               |
| 3. Deaths   | 53           | 32        | 21        | Death rate  | 11.9                                | 12.5                          |
|   |              |           |           | per 1,000   |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | resident    |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | population  |                                     |                               |
| 4. Deaths from Pregnancy,<br>Childbirth and<br>Abortion | --           | --        | --        | Rate per    | --                                  | 0.79                          |
|   |              |           |           | 1,000 (live |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | and still)  |                                     |                               |
|   |              |           |           | births      |                                     |                               |
| 5. Deaths of Infants<br>under One Year<br>of Age        | 3            | 2         | 1         |             |                                     |                               |
| (a) Legitimate  | 3            | 2         | 1         |             |                                     |                               |
| (b) Illegitimate  | --           | --        | --        |             |                                     |                               |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,00 live births              |              |           |           |             | 47.62                               | 29.6                          |
| Rate re legitimate infants                              |              |           |           |             | 48.39                               |                               |
| Rate re illegitimate infants                            |              |           |           |             | --                                  |                               |
| 6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                        |              |           |           |             | 7                                   |                               |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)                   |              |           |           |             | --                                  |                               |
| Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and<br>Diarrhoea       |              |           |           |             | --                                  |                               |

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The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1951.

|   |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| Scarlet Fever                               | ... | ... | 8  |
| Whooping Cough                              | ... | ... | 44 |
| Measles                                     | ... | ... | 16 |
| Acute Primary or Influenzal<br>Pneumonia... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Acute Poliomyelitis                         | ... | ... | 2  |
| Erysipelas                                  | ... | ... | 2  |
| Meningococcal Infection                     | ... | ... | 1  |





Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1951.

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Rural District of Romney Marsh under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1951, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1937)

| Year of Birth. | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
|                | 4    | -    | 28   | 34   | 32   | 35   | 37   | 38   | 49   | 44   | 44   | 55   | 61   | 70   | 6    | 537   |

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1951.

| <u>Diphtheria Immunisation.</u> |   | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 | 1942 | 1941 | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | Total |
|---------------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Year of Birth.                  |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| Primary Inoculations            | 6 | 60   | 6    | 1    | 1    | -    | 3    | -    | -    | 1    | 1    | -    | -    | 1    | -    | 2    | 82    |
| Reinforcing - Inoculations      | - | -    | -    | -    | 3    | 42   | 12   | 1    | 7    | 7    | 7    | -    | 4    | 5    | 8    | 12   | 101   |

Vaccination

|                             |  | Under 1 | 1 to 4 | 5 to 14 | 15 or over | Total |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|--------|---------|------------|-------|
| Age at 31st December, 1951. |  |         |        |         |            |       |
| Number Vaccinated           |  | 17      | 21     | 7       | 7          | 52    |
| Number Re-Vaccinated        |  | -       | -      | 5       | 25         | 30    |

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality, 1951.

| Age<br>Periods. | Respiratory |    | New Cases |    | Deaths      |                     | Total Cases on Register |    |    |                     |
|-----------------|-------------|----|-----------|----|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----|----|---------------------|
|                 | M.          | F. | M.        | F. | Respiratory | Non-<br>Respiratory | Respiratory             | F. | M. | Non-<br>Respiratory |
| 0               | -           | -  | -         | -  | -           | -                   | 9                       | 5  | 2  | 1                   |
| 1               | -           | -  | 1         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| 5               | -           | -  | -         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| 15              | 1           | 1  | 1         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| 25              | -           | -  | -         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| 35              | -           | -  | -         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| 45              | -           | -  | -         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| 55              | -           | -  | -         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| 65 and upwards  | 1           | -  | -         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |
| Totals          | 2           | 1  | 2         | -  | -           | -                   | -                       | -  | -  | -                   |

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.1. Water Supply.

The Water Supply in this area is by:-

- (a) The Littlestone-on-Sea & District Water Company -  
Parishes of Dymchurch and St. Mary's.
- (b) The Mid-Kent Water Company - Remaining Seven Parishes.

2. Sewers.

A local Inquiry was held in May by the Ministry's Inspector into the Outline Sewerage Scheme concerning the Coastal Belt of the Parishes of Dymchurch and St. Mary-in-the-Marsh. Approval in Principle by the Ministry has been given to the Scheme.

3. Public Cleansing.

Cesspools are emptied throughout the area by the Council. Where emptying of Cesspools is required more than twice in six months a charge of 10/- is made. During the year 916 Cesspools have been emptied, comprising 1,812 Vehicle Loads.

4. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

| <u>Premises Inspected</u>                 | <u>No. of Inspections.</u> |
|---|----------------------------|
| <u>Accumulation found</u>                 | 1                          |
| <u>Animals Kept</u>                       |                            |
| (a) Piggeries                             | 2                          |
| (b) Stables                               | 3                          |
| (c) Fowls, pigeons etc.                   | 6                          |
| <u>Complaints</u>                         |                            |
| Total number investigated. (All premises) | 106                        |
| <u>Dairies</u>                            |                            |
| Cowsheds                                  | 28                         |
| Dairies                                   | 53                         |
| Milk Shops                                | 8                          |
| <u>Disinfection</u>                       |                            |
| Number of houses disinfected              | 2                          |
| Number of other buildings disinfected     | -                          |
| <u>Disinfestation</u>                     |                            |
| Number of houses                          | -                          |
| Number of other premises                  | -                          |



| <u>Premises Inspected</u>                                    | <u>No. of Inspections</u> |
|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Drainage</u>  |                           |
| Number of drains found choked                                | 49                        |
| Number of drains found defective                             | 6                         |
| Number of drains tested                                      | 31                        |
| <u>Dwelling Houses</u>                                       |                           |
| Number of Inspections re repairs                             | 108                       |
| Re-inspections   | 31                        |
| Number inspected re overcrowding                             | 1                         |
| Number found dirty   | 1                         |
| Number found verminous                                       | -                         |
| <u>Infectious Diseases.</u>                                  |                           |
| Visits re Scarlet Fever                                      | -                         |
| Visits re Diphtheria   | -                         |
| Visits re other diseases                                     | 3                         |
| <u>Factories</u>   |                           |
| With mechanised power  | 15                        |
| Without mechanised power                                     | -                         |
| Bakehouses   | 28                        |
| <u>Food Premises</u>   |                           |
| Butchers' Shops or Stalls                                    | 69                        |
| Preparation of Potted Meat etc.                              | 26                        |
| Fruiterers   | 27                        |
| Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops                             | 33                        |
| Restaurants or Cafe Kitchens                                 | 71                        |
| <u>Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination</u> |                           |
| Satisfactory   | 10                        |
| Unsatisfactory   | -                         |
| <u>Miscellaneous Visits</u>                                  |                           |
| Number of visits not otherwise<br>classified                 | 68                        |
| <u>Building Byelaws</u>                                      | 295                       |
| <u>Shops Act</u>   | 36                        |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.                                      | 45                        |
| <u>Water Supply</u>  |                           |

Samples of these two undertakings, the Mid-Kent Water Company and Littlestone-on-Sea and District Water Company have throughout the year been found satisfactory.

5. Rodent Control

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Inspections made                 | 65  |
| Infestations dealt with Jan/Dec. | 44  |
| Estimated Mice Killed            | 92  |
| Actual Mice Bodies found         | 31  |
| Estimated Rats Killed            | 975 |
| Actual Rat Bodies found          | 263 |

6. Housing Programmes

A further 36 properties were completed at St. Mary's Bay, bringing the total number of Council Owned Dwellings to 200. Work has also started on a new Scheme at Burmarsh which comprises 13 houses and a shop. This is the first shop to be built by the Council. It will be used as a Sub-Post Office and General Village Store, a useful amenity to Burmarsh.

7. Milk Supply.

The supply of Milk within the area was found on the whole to be Satisfactory. New Building Extensions and Improvements to Dairies have been carried out.

8. Ice Cream

Three Licensed Producers operate in the area. 20 Samples were taken throughout the District and found to be satisfactory.

9. Building Licences.

Total of £23,287, numbering 63 licences, have been dealt with during the past year. This includes Cost of Works (War Damage Rebuilding) and New Houses by Private Enterprise.

10. Plans.

Number of Planning Applications dealt with under Town and County Planning Act, 1947 submitted to this Council were 92.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Classified 111 and dealt with by the Kent |    |
| County Council                            | 15 |
| Classified 11 and 1 dealt with by this    |    |
| Council                                   | 77 |

Two Appeals were lodged with the Ministry of Town and County Planning. Both Appeals upheld.

11. Camping Sites.

There are three Licensed Camping Sites in the Area. New Rules and standards have been drawn up and adopted, regarding the amenities of the Site. The following conditions were attached to all Licences issued:-

1. Number and Classes of Moveable Dwellings. No sites may have a density of more than 25 caravans or tents to the acre. Only caravans of the trailer type will be allowed.



2. Water Supply. There is to be a satisfactory supply at all times. All taps are to be sited over a satisfactory dish gulley, complete with soakaway.
3. Refuse. Refuse bins are to be provided at regular intervals and not less than 1 to every 6 caravans. These to be emptied as often as may be necessary.
4. Sign Posts. Proper directional sign posts to be erected, pointing to the various amenities, that is, Public Conveniences, Drinking Water, etc. Each camp should have publically displayed a layout plan, showing plot numbers and caravan names, at 1/500 scale.
5. Lighting. All Conveniences and Main Entrances to be adequately lighted.
6. Winter Period. All caravans and tents are either to be moved from the site altogether during the period 1st November to 31st March in each year or stored together in a part of the site specially set aside, and marked on the application plan, as being for this purpose.
7. Layout Plan. A layout plan to a scale of 1/500 to be submitted by Applicant with the application for a licence.
8. Grass. This is to be kept cut.
9. Attendants. Adequate attendants to be provided for the camp.
10. Sanitary Accommodation. A minimum of 1 W.C. to every 8 caravans or tents to be provided. Adequate urinal provision also to be made.
11. Use of Public Conveniences. Campers to be advised that the conveniences provided must be used on all occasions and that no departure from this instruction will be tolerated by the proprietors.
12. Mortuary.

With regard to the Council's Mortuary, the following cases were dealt with:-

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Total number of Cases.                       | 1 |
| Number on which Post Mortem was carried out. | 1 |

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. HOPE. (M.S.I.A.)

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.